

Senior Year Action Items

- Have you visited where you're thinking of going next?

Heading to school? Try to visit the **actual department** where you'll be learning—**don't just settle** for a **generic tour**. Try to sit in on a class. Also ask questions about where to get help with:

Financial aid questions

Stress! (Personal counseling)

Academic help (tutoring)

Medical care

Computer support

Choosing the right classes

Housing

Career advice

Meal/laundry options

Planning an apprenticeship or the military? Again, try to visit the **actual area** where you'll be working.

- On October 1st, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) goes live for the upcoming (fall/spring) academic year. <https://fafsa.gov/> Go ahead. Fill it out.

This is how you access Federal financial aid. (You can apply for aid each year you're in school.)

- Start by creating an FSA ID. You'll need one, & your parent may need one, too. <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

- If you need to take the ACT or SAT one more time, try to take it in October. That way, results will be back in time to apply for school/s. (Ask your counselor for help with a fee waiver if you can't afford test or college application fees.)
- If you're heading to school, does your school have a **"priority application deadline"**? If so, learn when that is. **And meet it.** Applications turned in by that date are first in line for financial aid as well as admissions consideration.

- Hunt for scholarships. Scholarships—and resources for finding scholarships—are listed on this website: ccr.psd201.org
- This PowerPoint explains how to make the process more efficient: <https://goo.gl/ngtFoj>
- This Prezi explains different ways to pay for training after high school: <https://goo.gl/npWyot>

- Can you lock up any industry credentials while in high school to help pay for your training after high school? PHS offers CNA & EMT industry credentials, as well as certification pathways with Bridgerland with Automated Manufacturing & IT programs. (SEITec can help with this: seitec.psd201.org)
- Advanced Opportunity funds can pay for your certification exams. <https://goo.gl/ynRFXS>

- Once you hear back about admissions and financial aid—**respond**. Otherwise, they'll assume you aren't interested, & move on to the next person in line. (For financial aid, you'll get an **"award letter"**—which may actually be an email on your **college email** account. You can accept or deny aid on an item-by-item basis. That way you have control over what aid you actually take.)

- If you're heading off for a volunteer experience right out of high school, it's still a great idea to apply for school & financial aid! **When you hear back** from your school about admission & financial aid, **accept it**, & then complete a **"deferral form."** This will freeze your account until you return. It's a low-stress way to come back from your volunteer experience. You'll still need to apply for the FAFSA on your return, but any money at the institutional level will stay intact. If you win outside scholarships, contact them directly to see if they'll hold your funds for you. You can always change your mind, but this way you have a solid option when you return.
- Interested in a technical school? Find out if the program you want has a waiting list. If it does, get on that list **before** you head out, & let them know your approximate return date. That way, you won't waste time waiting when you return.

...The sky's the limit.